



Interested in your environment?

... want to contribute to science?

... become a citizen scientist today.

Would you like to be a part of real scientific research? Cape Cod National Seashore is seeking a group of dedicated volunteers to assist in data collection for a citizen-led phenological monitoring study beginning in December of 2011. Volunteers should be year-round residents and be able to commit 1-2 days/week for the months of December – July. Shorter terms of service may become available. The work will require use of a personal vehicle and may require extended walks of over 1.5 miles. The work may place volunteers in contact with poison ivy, ticks, and inclement weather.

What is Phenology? Phenology is the study of the timing of life cycle events in organisms. *When* a rose bush flowers, *when* a population of spring peepers begin to call, and *when* piping plovers migrate from their winter homes and arrive on Cape Cod beaches are all examples of phenological events. Certain environmental factors influence when these events take place from year to year. One of these factors is climate.

Will Climate Change Affect Phenology on Cape Cod? This is the question we want to explore. Two consequences of expected climate change are rising temperatures and altered weather patterns. Both of these are likely to influence the phenology of Cape Cod's flora and fauna. A greater understanding of how these factors are affecting ecological relationships will allow for more informed decisions on behalf of Seashore scientists and resource managers.

Interested in Becoming a Volunteer? Please send an email with your name, availability, address, and phone number to program coordinator Megan Tyrrell at: Megan_Tyrrell@nps.gov
Or log on to our website: <http://www.nps.gov/caco/naturescience/atlantic-research-center.htm> and click on the 'Citizen Science Phenology Monitoring' link.

If you can not commit, but would like to learn more log on to the USA National Phenology Network website to learn more about how you can undertake phenology monitoring right in your own backyard!

